



The Lincoln Kinsman

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New Jersey Lincolns

ANCESTORS AND KINSMEN OF THE PRESIDENT LIVING
IN COLONIAL NEW JERSEY

Abraham Lincoln was a visitor in the New Jersey state capital on February 21, 1861, while enroute from Springfield, Illinois, to Washington, D. C., where he was to be inaugurated President of the United States. He had been invited to address both the senate and the assembly which were then in their respective sessions. There is evidence that he was greatly moved by his environment on this occasion as his remarks clearly indicate.

In his youth Lincoln had read the story of the Revolutionary War so dramatically described by Weems, and he told the New Jersey senators, "I remember all the accounts there given of the battlefields and the struggles for the liberties of the country, and none fixed themselves upon my imagination so deeply as the struggle here at Trenton, New Jersey. The crossing of the River, the contest with the Hessians, the great hardships endured at that time, all

fixed themselves on my memory more than any single Revolutionary event."

Not only was Lincoln influenced to recall the episodes which occurred in the very city where he spoke, but he also said, "I cannot but remember the place that New Jersey holds in our early history. In the Revolutionary struggle few of the states among the old thirteen had more of the battlefields of the country within their limits than New Jersey."

Historians generally concede that no state suffered during the war more than did New Jersey, and it is generally admitted that no county in the state suffered more than did Monmouth.

How much more deeply would Lincoln have been impressed upon this visit if he had known that some of the very New Jersey land over which the Revolutionary soldiers had advanced was the property of his own ancestors.

How stirred he would have been if he had known that his own great grandfather, John Lincoln, was born in New Jersey, not far from one of the famous battlefields.

In one version of the Trenton remarks, commenting on the Revolutionary heroes, he is said to have asked the question, "Am I not addressing the sons of those noble sires?" Not only was he speaking to the sons of the American Revolution, but he was addressing many of his own kinsmen who with their ancestors had occupied prominent places in the New Jersey Legislature since its first assembly.

Just two years previous to Lincoln's remarks at Trenton, Edwin Saltar had served as the speaker of the New Jersey Assembly. Both Abraham Lincoln and Edwin Saltar were great great grandsons of Richard Saltar, New Jersey pioneer. How tremendously moved Lincoln would have been if he had known that 175 years before one of his direct ancestors, Captain John Bowne, had presided over the provincial legislature of New Jersey. When Abraham Lincoln made the visit in 1861 he had no idea that any of his forebears had lived in the state.

The Lincoln Family

New Jersey was the objective of the first migration of Abraham Lincoln's ancestors who had settled in New England in 1637. Two brothers, Mordecai and Abraham, established themselves in Monmouth County, New Jersey, at the beginning of the eighteenth century. They may have arrived as early as 1710 and positively not later than 1714.

In 1708, a writer describing Monmouth County makes this statement: "There's a new town in the county called Freehold, which has not been laid out and inhabited long. It does not contain as yet above forty families and as to its Out Plantations we suppose they are much the same in number with the rest and may count it about 30,000 acres."

Where Mordecai and Abraham first settled in the county is not definitely known. In 1720, Mordecai is mentioned in a deed as living within the area then known as Freehold, Monmouth County. He acquired four hundred acres of land that year on the Machaponix River, and later added one hundred acres more to his estate.

Although the location of some of Mordecai Lincoln's land is known, the site of any one of his homes has not been positively identified. There is one spot about one mile from Clarksburg which is pointed out as the actual location of the Lincoln's old residence on what used to be known as the Larry Highland Farm and now called the Cahill Place. It is on the road from Clarksburg to New Sharon. There is a strong probability that Mordecai Lincoln lived here at the time he removed from the state.

Clarksburg is on the road from Freehold to Allentown and is approached through the towns of West Freehold, Elton, Smithburg, and Charleston Springs, and a distance of about ten miles from the county seat. Passing through the town of Clarksburg, a gravel road leads off to the right; after traveling less than a mile another gravel road forks to the left; then a wagon trail to the left is fol-

lowed about a hundred feet, where in a clearing on the left of the wagon trail the old Mordecai Lincoln home is said to have stood. It is very likely that on this place was born John Lincoln, often called "Virginia John," the great grandfather of Abraham Lincoln and the oldest son of Mordecai and Sarah Saltar Lincoln. The home site is about one mile distant from Clarksburg.

Mordecai's brother, Abraham Lincoln, is said to have operated a forge on the Creamridge road and an old stone blacksmith shop still stands to mark the site of Lincoln's iron forge. Abraham's father Mordecai was an iron foundry operator in Massachusetts and the son seems to have learned his father's trade. The Creamridge location is not far from Imlaystown.

The Saltar Family

The exact date of the marriage of Mordecai Lincoln to Hannah Saltar, daughter of Richard Saltar, has not been ascertained, but they were married by 1714 at which time Hannah Lincoln's name appears on a family document. Mordecai and Hannah Lincoln had six children, a son and five daughters:

1. John, the oldest, born May 3, 1716, became the great grandfather of President Lincoln. He married a widow, Mrs. Rebecca Flowers Morris, and died in Virginia in 1788.

2. Deborah, who was born January, 1717, died May 15, 1720, when but three years of age.

3. Hannah, whose birth date is not known, married Joseph Millard

before December 15, 1742. She died by 1769.

4. Mary, whose birth date is also obscure, married (1) a Mr. Morris, and (2) Francis Yarnall. The date of her death is not known.

5. Anne was born March 8, 1725, and married William Tallman. She died about 1812.

6. Sarah was born about April, 1727, and married William Boone May 26, 1748. She died April 21, 1810.

One marker which designates an actual spot where the Lincolns are known to have been is the tombstone of Deborah Lincoln. It stands in what is known as the old Jemison burying ground located on top of Covell Hill about two miles from Clarksburg on the road which leads to Allentown. It is the tombstone of a child with the inscription:

DEBORAH
LINCOLN

Aged 3y 4m.
May 15, 1720

Hannah Saltar Lincoln died about the year 1727, after the Lincolns moved to Pennsylvania, and Mordecai married a second wife, May Robeson, to which union there were born three children, Mordecai, Thomas, and Abraham. It is not likely that any of the children of Mordecai and Hannah Saltar Lincoln ever went back to New Jersey to make their homes there, although some of them inherited their parents' land.

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The name of Richard Saltar, father of Hannah, appears on the records of Monmouth County, New Jersey, in 1687, and he settled there some years earlier. His ancestry is not known, although tradition states that he came from England sometime after 1664. In 1697 he was residing in Freehold where he ran a mill. He also owned a tract of land at Imlaystown where he built another mill. The court records refer to him as the "King's Attorney," and later he became a justice and then a judge of Monmouth County, in which capacity he served from 1704 to 1728, nearly a quarter of a century.

As early as 1695 Richard Saltar was elected a member of the House of Deputies, and he was a member of

the second assembly in 1704. He was also serving in the assembly or the eastern division of New Jersey in 1711.

Richard and Sarah Saltar had nine children, John, Thomas, Hannah, Richard, William, Ebenezer, James, Deborah, and Oliver. It was Hannah, the oldest daughter, who became the wife of Mordecai Lincoln.

Although it is impossible to trace the lineage of Richard Saltar back farther than his own generation, we are able to learn much of interest about his wife Sarah who was the daughter of Captain John Bowne and Mary Holmes Bowne.

The Bowne Family

Abraham Lincoln's great great grandfather, the Captain John Bowne already mentioned, was one of the most prominent men of New Jersey. The father of Captain Bowne was William Bowne, who settled in Salem, Massachusetts in the town where Samuel Lincoln made his home for a short time in 1637. In 1636 William was granted fifty acres of land on Jeffries Creek. He died about the year 1677. He was probably the earliest of Lincoln's ancestors to come to America.

A brief sketch found in the proceedings of the Bi-Centennial Anniversary of the New Jersey Legislature in 1883 gives this biographical sketch of Captain John Bowne:

"Captain John Bowne came to Middletown, N. J., from Gravesend, L. I. He was one of the twelve men

named in the noted Monmouth Patent of 1665. He was one of the original settlers of Middletown, and one of the founders of the Baptist church there—the oldest of that society in the state. Until his death in the early part of 1684, he seems to have been the most prominent citizen of the county, esteemed for his integrity and ability. He appeared as a deputy to the first assembly in Carteret's time, which met May 26th, 1668, the members of the lower house then being called 'burgesses.' He was deputy again in 1675, after Phillip Carteret's return from England; and in the first legislature under the Twenty-four Proprietors, 1683, he was a member and speaker, and acted until the December following. He held other positions of trust. March 12, 1677, a commission was issued to him as President of the Court to hold a court at Middletown. In December, 1683, shortly before his last illness, he was appointed Major of the militia of Monmouth County. He died in the early part of 1684."

It will be observed that Captain John Bowne was one of the twelve men whose names appeared on the famous Monmouth Patent with its declaration that their New Jersey land had been honorably purchased from the Indians. This patent was recorded in New York on November 8, 1665. The group of twelve original founders as pioneer settlers can be reduced to four, inasmuch as only four of the patentees actually took up residence in New Jersey, Bowne being one of the four.

Captain Bowne preceded William Penn into New Jersey by seventeen

years and while Penn sat in the council at Elizabethtown, Bowne was presiding over the other branch of the provincial legislature. Bowne and his associates, in their original patent had declared for "Free liberty of conscience, without any molestation or disturbance whatsoever in way of their worship." This was one of the earliest declarations for tolerance in religion.

Captain Bowne's son John was a merchant of Middletown, New Jersey. He made his will in 1714 and bequeathed the sum of two hundred and fifty pounds to his niece, Hannah Saltar Lincoln. Mordecai Lincoln's name appears in the inventory made of John Bowne's estate. A letter written by John Saltar, brother of Hannah Saltar, to Obadiah Bowne, executor of John Bowne's estate, mentions "my brother Lincoln."

The Holmes Family

Not only were the Bownes important in colonial political history but Captain Bowne married into a family equally influential in the field of religion. Captain Bowne's wife was Lydia Holmes, youngest daughter of the Reverend Obadiah and Katherine Hyde Holmes.

Reverend Obadiah Holmes, the pioneer, landed at Salem, Massachusetts, about four years after Captain Bowne, so at least three of the ancestral lines of President Lincoln can be traced back to Salem, where Samuel Lincoln landed in 1637.

Obadiah was born at Preston, Lancaster, England in 1606, the son of

Robert Holmes (spelled Hulme). Upon arriving in America in 1639 he worked at glass making in Salem for seven years. Samuel Lincoln, John Bowne, and Obadiah Holmes, three ancestors of Abraham Lincoln in three different family lines, were all living not far from each other in Massachusetts at this time.

Obadiah Holmes united with the Baptists shortly after 1646 and, because of the persecutions he was obliged to undergo, moved to Newport in 1850. The following summer he was arrested for preaching doctrines contrary to the belief of the established church. He was taken to Boston and imprisoned for several weeks. Finally he was taken to the whipping-post on Boston Common and given thirty strokes with a three-corded whip which left him for weeks in a frightful physical condition. As soon as he was able he returned to the pastorate at the First Baptist Church at Newport. He preached here about thirty years, serving until the time of his death on October 15, 1682. He was buried at Middletown, five miles from Newport.

Several of the eight children migrated to New Jersey, among them his son Obadiah and his youngest daughter, Lydia Holmes Bowne, the wife of Captain John Bowne. It was the Holmes family who undoubtedly was responsible for members of the Saltar family embracing the Baptist faith, and Sarah Bowne Saltar, daughter of Lydia Holmes Bowne, was a member of Middletown Church in New Jersey as early as 1713.

Sarah Saltar evidently indoctrinated her children in the same faith, as her oldest son, John Lincoln, was largely responsible for the building of a Baptist church on his land in Virginia known as the Linville Creek Baptist Church.

The Holmes were among the first land purchasers in New Jersey, Obadiah and Jonathan Holmes acquiring land as early as 1668. In 1675 a list, containing the names of those with Rights of Land due according to the concessions, contained the name of "Obadiah Holmes for self and wife 240 acres."

The Holmes family took a vital interest in the political activities of New Jersey, and when a provincial Congress was called to take action on "tyrannical acts" of Great Britain in 1774, two of the delegates from Monmouth County were members of the Holmes family.

Although New Jersey has had very little to say about its Lincoln heritage, it appears as if it has an intensely interesting Lincoln background. Perhaps the state itself owes something of its early progress to Lincoln's kinsmen.

In the first assembly in 1703 there appeared from Monmouth County Obadiah Bowne and Richard Hartshorne. In the second assembly in 1704 were Richard Hartshorne, John Bowne, Richard Saltar, and Obadiah Bowne. Three of these men were brothers-in-law of Mordecai Lincoln, and Richard Hartshorne was the father of William Hartshorne, another brother-in-law of Mordecai.

HOLMES FAMILY

First Generation

- a. Obadiah, 1607-1682
Hyde, Catherine

Second Generation

- aa. Mary, (1639)-1690
Brown, John
ab. Martha, 1640-1682
ac. Samuel, 1642-1679
Stillwell, Alice
ad. Obadiah, 1644-(1723)
Cole, Hannah
ae. John, 1649-1712
(1) Holden, Frances
(2) Green, Mary (Sayles)
af. Jonathan, -1713
Borden, Sarah
ag. Hopestill
Taylor,
ah. *Lydia, 1669-(1714)
Bowne, Captain John

*See John Bowne in Bowne Family.

BOWNE FAMILY

First Generation

- a. William, -(1677)
....., Ann

Second Generation

- aa. Bowne, John, -1684
Holmes, Lydia
ab. James, -(1697)
Stout, Mary
ac. Andrew, -1708
Seabrook, Ann
ad. Catherine, -(1684)
Mott, Adam

Third Generation

- aaa. Bowne, John, 1664-1715
....., Frances
aab. Obadiah, 1666-1726
aac. Deborah, 1668-

- aad. †Sarah, 1669-
Saltar, Richard

- aae. Catherine
Hartshorne, William

†See Richard Saltar in Saltar Family.

SALTAR FAMILY

First Generation

- a. Richard -(1728)
Bowne, Sarah

Second Generation

- aa. John, 1694-1723
Lawrence, Elizabeth
ab. Thomas, (1695)-1722
....., Rachel
ac. Hannah, -(1727)
Lincoln, Mordecai
ad. Richard, 1699-1762
Lawrence, Hannah
ae. William
af. Ebenezer, -(1757)
Stillwell, Rebecca
ag. James
ah. Deborah
ai. Oliver

Third Generation

(Name Changes to Lincoln)

- aca. John, 1716-1788
Morris, Mrs. Rebecca
(Flowers)
acb. Deborah, 1717-1720
acc. Hannah -1769
Millard, Joseph
acd. Mary
(1) Morris,
(2) Yarnall, Francis, Jr.
ace. Anne, 1725-1812
Tallman, William
acf. Sarah, 1727-1810
Boone, William

Fourth Generation

- acaa. Abraham, 1744-1786
 (Herring), Bathsheba
- acab. Hannah, 1748-1803
 Harrison, John
- acac. Lydia, 1748-
- acad. Isaac, 1750-1816
 Ward, Mary
- acae. Jacob, 1751-1822
 Robinson, Dorcas
- acaf. John, 1755-1835
 Yarnall, Mary
- acag. Sarah, 1757-
- Dean,
- acah. Thomas, 1761-(1819)
 Casner, Elizabeth
- acai. Rebecca, 1767-1840
 Rymel, John

Fifth Generation

- acaaa. Mordecai, 1771-1830
 Mudd, Mary
- acaab. Josiah, 1773-1835
 Barlow, Catharine
- acaac. Mary, (1775)-
- Crume, Ralph
- acaad. Thomas, 1776-1851
 (1) Hanks, Nancy
 (2) Johnston, Mrs. Sarah
 (Bush)
- acaae. Nancy, 1780-1845
 Brumfield, William
- Sixth Generation***
- acaaaa. Sarah, 1807-1828
 Grigsby, Allen
- acaaab. Abraham, 1809-1865
 Todd, Mary
- acaaac. Thomas, (1811)-(1813)